

**MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad):** Government admit that they were collecting tax from the people on those paddy fields when they were uncultivated. So I put the question whether Government would see their way to return to the people the tax that has been realised from them.

**PRESIDENT:** Don't you think that that question is a suggestion for future action?

*Out-break of Malaria.*

**217. \*MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad):** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have ordered an investigation being conducted with regard to the causes for the existence of malaria in an epidemic and endemic form in the eastern *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Kottarakara taluks;

(b) whether they are aware that there are large areas of wet lands inside the reserves that lie in and near the malarial areas in the above taluks; and

(c) whether they are aware that those wet lands are the perennial sources for the breeding, growth and spread of mosquitoes that give rise to malaria?

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (Director of Public Health):** (a) Certain investigations were conducted in the taluks of Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara when the malaria epidemic was prevailing.

(b) No.

(c) No. It has been established that malaria does not occur inside the forests and that a place becomes malarial only when the tree growth is cut and the land is opened up for cultivation.

**MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad):** With reference to answer to part (b), may I know the extent of swampy areas in the Nedumangad taluk?

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (Director of Public Health):** I claim notice.

**MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad):** May I know the extent of swampy areas in the Kottarakara taluk?

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (Director of Public Health):** An actual survey has not been taken by the Public Health Department.

**MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad):** May I know the extent of swampy or wet lands in the Neyyattinkara taluk?

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (Director of Public Health):** There is no information, Sir.

**MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad):** In the face of the answers that have been given to my supplementary question, may I know how they were able to give the answer "No" to part (b) of my question? My question is whether they are aware that there are large areas of wet lands inside the reserves that lie in and near the malarial areas in the Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Kottarakara taluks. The answer is to the effect that there are not sufficient areas covering wet lands.

**PRESIDENT:** The answer "No" does not mean that there are no wet lands in those places. The question is whether they are aware and the answer is "No."

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): My question was whether they have ordered an investigation being conducted with regard to the causes for the existence of malaria in an epidemic and endemic form in the eastern *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Kottarakara taluks, and the answer is "certain investigations were conducted in the taluks of Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara when the malaria epidemic was prevailing", and the answer to part (b) is "No". By this answer it would mean that there are not large swampy areas in and outside the reserves.

PRESIDENT: The question is whether they are aware and the answer is 'no'.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether Government are aware of the existence of swampy areas in those places?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to a point whether the Government member is in order when he says that he is not aware of the existence of swampy areas when a committee has drawn up a report at the instance of the Government and submitted it to Government.

PRESIDENT: Which report?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Swampy Areas Report. The Government member says that he is not aware of such a report?

PRESIDENT: Is the Government member aware of the existence of that report?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I said I claim notice for that question.

PRESIDENT: To find out whether there is a report like that?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: I cannot allow that answer to go unchallenged. The Director of Public Health is responsible for an observation made on behalf of the Government. It is difficult for the Chair to concede that he is not aware of a report of a committee that has been appointed by the Government for the purpose of investigating swampy areas in the State, where malaria and other diseases break out in an epidemic form and such other things. The question of swampy areas plays an important part from the standpoint of the Public Health Department, and for the member to say that he is not aware of the existence of that report and that he wants notice to know whether there is a report in existence, I cannot allow it.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): With reference to answer to part (a), may I know whether the presence of wet lands helps the breeding, growth and spread of mosquitoes?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): There are not many habitations inside the reserves and as such it has not been brought to the notice of the department that there is much malaria inside the forests.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): My question is whether the Government are aware that those wet lands or swampy areas are the perennial sources for the breeding, growth and spread of mosquitoes and the constant outbreak of malaria.

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI** (*Director of Public Health*): Swampy areas alone will not cause malaria, unless—

**PRESIDENT**: That has been already answered by you.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): My question is whether the presence of swampy areas would help the breeding, growth and spread of mosquitoes.

**PRESIDENT**: Whether the presence of swampy areas would accelerate the spread of mosquitoes? You are a non-medical man.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): I am a better medical man than many of these official members.

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer*): That is a matter of opinion.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether they are aware that the presence of wet lands is the perennial source for the breeding, growth and spread of mosquitoes?

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI** (*Director of Public Health*): Swampy areas may be one of the causes for the growth of some varieties of mosquitoes.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): May I know the variety of mosquitoes that causes malaria?

**PRESIDENT**: Give some technical names.

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI** (*Director of Public Health*): *Anopheles*.

**PRESIDENT**: That is too common.

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI** (*Director of Public Health*): *Anopheles*, *Culicifacies*, *A. Varuna*, *A. fluvicetilis*, these and some other varieties give rise to malaria. But they are not seen everywhere inside the forests. These are seen only in certain localities.

**PRESIDENT**: Other factors must also be present to contribute to the development of malaria?

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether the varieties of mosquitoes just now mentioned are present in the swampy areas inside Nedumangad, Kottarakara and Neyyattinkara taluks?

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI** (*Director of Public Health*): In some areas they are seen. But an actual investigation inside the forests has not been undertaken till now.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether there was outbreak of malaria in the eastern *pakuthies* of these three taluks?

**DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI** (*Director of Public Health*): There are cases of malaria in the eastern *pakuthies* of these taluks.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether cases of malaria were confined to these eastern *pakuthies* of these taluks?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): The disease is confined to almost all the taluks in the eastern half of Travancore.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Member whether the cause for malaria in these eastern *pakuthies* or the eastern half of the taluks is due to the presence of swampy areas inside the forests?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Not necessarily, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether any investigation has been undertaken to ascertain this fact by the department?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: The answer to part (a) says that certain investigations were conducted.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government when the investigations were taken up and completed?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Investigation was started in 1906 and is going to be completed; it is not yet over.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the results so far of the investigation?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): It is too elaborate a question to be answered, Sir.

PRESIDENT: You will have to write a thesis in answer to that question?

Next question, please.

*Filling up of acting vacancies in the Primary Schools.*

218. \*MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointments made to acting vacancies in Primary Girls' Schools of the Quilon Division were in accordance with the priority in the list of acting teachers;

(b) whether any deviation has been made to this rule in the case of any appointment; and

(c) if so, the reason for it?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*):

(a) Yes, as far as possible.

(b) Yes.

(c) When the senior-most person in the waiting list is not available for appointment, the next senior is appointed. Applicants from unrepresented backward communities are also occasionally given preference.